



**Office of the City Manager**

Andrew O. Hamilton

360.423.1371 (P)

360.423.1738 (F)

February 23, 2026

Representative Marie Gluesenkamp Perez  
United States Representative  
Washington, DC

Dear Representative Gluesenkamp Perez,

On behalf of the City of Kelso, I am writing to express strong support for grant funding to the Cowlitz 911 Public Authority to expand its first responder radio communications network throughout Cowlitz County.

Over the past several years, Cowlitz County has experienced urban and suburban growth in areas that were once sparsely developed. This rapid expansion has placed increased demands on public safety services while also exposing gaps in radio coverage that are critical for effective emergency response. Reliable, countywide radio communications are essential to ensure the safety of first responders and the public they serve.

The proposed expansion of the Cowlitz 911 Public Authority radio network will directly address these coverage challenges by improving signal reliability in newly developed and expanding areas of the county. Enhanced radio infrastructure will allow law enforcement, fire, emergency medical services, and other public safety partners to communicate clearly and consistently, particularly during emergencies where seconds matter.

Investing in this project will strengthen regional interoperability, improve responder coordination, and enhance overall emergency response capabilities. Most importantly, it will help ensure that residents and visitors in growing parts of Cowlitz County receive the same level of public safety protection as those in long-established areas.

We appreciate your continued leadership and advocacy for public safety and emergency communications. We respectfully urge your support for grant funding that will enable the Cowlitz 911 Public Authority to move forward with this critical radio network expansion. This investment will have lasting benefits for first responders, local governments, and the communities they serve.



**Office of the City Manager**

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360.423.1371 (P)

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Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact us if additional information would be helpful.

Sincerely,

Andrew Hamilton, City Manager

City of Kelso

[Andrewh@kelso.gov](mailto:Andrewh@kelso.gov)



City Council

360.577.3301 (P)  
360.423.1738 (F)

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United States Representative  
Washington, DC

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**City Council**

360.577.3301 (P)

360.423.1738 (F)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Veryl Anderson".

Veryl Anderson, Mayor

City of Kelso

[vanderson@kelso.gov](mailto:vanderson@kelso.gov)